

NECC Observer

Foster the people

Pump up Boston

A&E, page 9

Take a java break

What's brewing at NECC

Java Break, page 16

NECC's Sports

Learn what is new

Sports, page 12

Oct. 5, 2011

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Victim of slavery tells her story

By MARY ELLEN
D'ANGELO - LOMBARI
Campus Life Editor

Beatrice Fernando is standing in an airport in Beirut.

She is twenty-three years old. She is exhausted and hungry. She has just made the 5500 mile plane trip from Sri Lanka to Lebanon for the first and last time in her life.

She does not speak the language. She can't find her way around. She knows no one.

A man is holding up a sign and she reads her name. She walks over to him. With a sigh of relief she mutters that she is Beatrice Fernando.

Without a smile, a greeting, or an inquiry about her flight he says, "Give your passport to me."

Thus Fernando began a two year contract to be a maid in a home in

Lebanon.

She had paid a fee of 500 rupees and had agreed to work for two years at 2000 rupees per month. In return, she would receive air fare to and from Beirut, send money home each month, and make life for her three year old son and her aging parents more than comfortable in Sri Lanka.

Instead, she was locked inside the home where she was working.

She was given twenty hours of work per day, seven days a week.

Her only meals were the scraps from the children's plates, and whatever she could pull from the garbage. If she did not complete a task to the woman's satisfaction, she was beaten until she was unconscious.

Many nights she slept on the floor in a pool of her own blood.

As she was cleaning one day she

came across all the letters she had written and given to her homeowner to mail to her family back home. Since her parents did not have a phone this meant they had not heard anything from her.

She picked up the phone to call the contact at the agency who had met her at the airport, only to find the phone was also locked.

She found the keys and tried to unlock the door, but the key broke off in the lock.

When the woman came home and found that she had tried to leave, she beat Fernando unconscious.

It was at this point in time the woman told the armed guards outside the condominium where she lived to shoot Fernando on sight if they saw her, no questions asked.

"Faith is the only thing that woman could not take from me. I prayed every moment.



Mary Ellen D'Angelo-Lombardi Photo

Beatrice Fernando, a victim of slavery says "Life is peaceful now and I want to keep it that way."

"I prayed like a child waiting for a miracle. I prayed when I was starving. I prayed when I was homesick.

I prayed when I was bleeding and thought I would die," says Fernando.

Continued on Page 11

Enjoy the leaves, before it snows

*Autumn offers
multitude of local
fairs and activities*

By MICHELE SIMON
Features Editor

Fall is the season of change when the Earth passes the Equinox slowly tipping away from the sun, and the summer sun and fun draws to an end.

The daylight hours wane away, shortening by minutes each day, and the nights bring a crisp chill to the air.

Though the end of summer may leave us with a bit of regret the beauty of fall is undeniable.

Some like to refer to autumn as the glory days, when the brilliance of summer ends in a blaze of glory.

In the mountains of New Hampshire the trees have already begun to light up in a harmony of burning colors.

The change will quickly sweep first through the mountains, then on southward.

Like a blue supergiant star that blazes brilliantly and burns out quickly the autumn foliage, and all that it brings with it, will soon be gone and if we're not careful we could miss some of the best seasonal celebrations of the year.

In a few short weeks the trees will be bare. With autumn's cooling

days comes the harvests, and festivals and fairs abound, but how many days or hours between school, work and family life are there left to enjoy the fall festivities and foliage?

If you add up the free hours then look at all the choices you have for fall festivities they would far exceed the number of hours.

When time or money is an issue it pays to plan ahead, look at all the options and be choosy.

Harvest celebrations can be big or small. Applecrest Farm Orchards in Hampton Falls, NH boasts one of the largest ongoing harvest festivals, with daily live folk and bluegrass music, pick-your-own apples and pumpkins, hayrides, pie eating contests, apple pie and ice cream, hot cider and donuts, make-your-own scarecrow, face painting, balloons, a children's petting zoo, and a barbeque.

You could easily spend an entire day at such a festival absorbed in activities and New England style autumn fun. If you investigate a little deeper though you'll find the prices for each individual activity or food item added together could easily top \$100 for two people.

I recently spent an afternoon there and witnessed one disenchanted Mom scowling as she handed over \$42 for the barbeque for her family of four.

If money is an issue it would be wise to decide before going what

activity is most important. Large harvest festivals can be fun but also costly.

Numerous small farms can be found all over New England offering their own fall festivals at a cheaper cost and quieter atmosphere.

The New England fall celebration is not only about fairs and festivals; many people like to enjoy the beauty of nature in a peaceful setting. In my hometown, Epping NH, we have a small farm called Harvey's Hill.

The picturesque farm boasts a lookout hill on one of the highest elevations in the town.

They also sell fruit and vegetables, baked goods, ice cream and cider and donuts among other things. Hidden treasures like Harvey's Hill exist all across New England.

The ultimate in peace, beauty and witnessing nature at its finest though, can be found with some sturdy shoes and the price of gas.

Hiking one of the mountains during peak foliage can give a perspective and awe-inspiring display not found while driving the roads.

Not every trail or mountain is the same though so to get the best out of the hike it would be wise to research the trails and Fall Foliage.

The Fall foliage is peaking in the White Mountains and over the next couple of weeks Southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts will be set on fire with colors.



Michele Simon Photo

Fall is in full peak at NECC, get out and enjoy the beauty nature has to offer, the birds certainly are.

Now is the time to make plans. The enticing fresh aroma of apple pies baking is calling, the amusement rides at the fairs are waiting, and the leaves are changing quickly

but like the birds flocking in the trees, they will soon be gone.

*For a calender of fall activities
please see page 6*

Editorial

Welcoming, our newest edition

At the NECC Observer, we are here to serve the general population of Northern Essex. Our goal is to inform and entertain. However, lately we have noticed that people are not as interactive with us as we would like.

To pull us out of our dull state, we have been up at the Observer, practically all night moving our fingers, brewing up our latest brain child.

At this precise moment it is in your very hands. We urge you to direct your attention to the back page of the paper, located on page 16 a.k.a the back of the newspaper for those of you with a bad sense of direction.

Here you will see the brand new

section of the Observer that is named 'Java Break'. The goal of this section is to promote awareness and a few laughs along with it.

However, the fact is that we cannot have this section without our beloved readers. So if you see anything odd, worth putting in print, send it to the observer@necc.mass.edu. We will appreciate anything you send it. The worst that will happen is that we won't use it, but we will let you know why.

So is it that bad?

Not really, plus it would look awesome to see your name in print.

Wouldn't it?



NECC Observer

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How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurr building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include Letter to Editor in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:

observer@necc.mass.edu

*Include Letter to Editor in the subject line.

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:

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While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

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Roaming Reporter

Are NECC students rude?



Allycen Perron

Education

"In comparison to high school, no."



Jeffrey Green

Graphic Design

"A little bit, sometimes."



Kehoe Cassady

Liberal Arts

"F--- them all. They're all a---s. Except the smokers. Can you print that?"

Photos/Interviews by Thomas Shamma



Michael Dutra-Lowell

Computer Science

"Not many of them, surprisingly."

"I've actually run into a good amount of kind people, especially being in a wheelchair in the beginning for the term."



Rachel Nadler

Liberal Arts: Biology

"It really depends what you're talking about -- it depends on your level of rudeness."



Vallerie Gyang

Nursing/Human Services

"No, I think they're well-mannered."

Opinion

Do we really need the 2nd amendment?

The bill of rights could use some revision, starting at #2

By THOMAS SHAMMA
Opinion Editor

Americans tend to hold the constitution, and especially the bill of rights, as a sort of sacred document, establishing transcendent rights that define what it means to be an American. And while it's true that they are a set of very good ideas, written by a group of creative and intelligent men, and they were a great improvement over the alternative governments available at the time, the last 200 years have been characterized by changes in society and technology our founding fathers could not possibly have foreseen. As a result, it may be worthwhile to revisit some of those provisions. And none are more contentious than the second, the right to bear arms.

The second amendment of the United States Constitution reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It's frequently summarized as "The right to bear arms."

The phrasing and punctuation of this amendment have been argued up and down, over and over again, in the national dialogue about gun control. What did the founding fathers mean? What is the core grammatical intent of this sentence? It reads like nonsense, after all. Removing the comma'd out fragments from the middle, it says: "A well regulated Militia shall not be

infringed."

That's obviously not its correct meaning, but if that's what you get from a grammatical deconstruction, what did they mean? Should the first and third commas have been removed? Is the amendment somehow grammatically correct?

The proponents of gun rights argue that this amendment protects the people's right and ability to rise up against their government, if such an action becomes necessary. They claim that the first half establishes that, while the government obviously requires arms, it's dangerous to leave that privilege solely in the hands of the people in power.

I agree with them, and in 1787, ensuring that individuals could keep their guns was a good way of doing this.

Weapons now, though, have become sophisticated enough that some are entirely too dangerous to risk allowing in the general population.

Automatic weapons, assault rifles, rocket propelled grenades, land mines and nuclear bombs make up a short list of the many devices which certainly count as 'arms,' but which are, to varying degrees, too dangerous to leave available to purchase.

They might be used by mentally unstable individuals, or by small fringe groups, who are far from representative of the views of the people but who might nonetheless cause far more damage before being stopped than they could possibly have done with eighteenth-century military equipment.

Gun rights activists will argue that "If you outlaw guns, only outlaws will have guns." This may be a short-term, immediate-effect con-



photo by Mike Haskey via MCTcampus

Demonstrators carrying their weapons rally at Gravelly Point in Arlington, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC, citing second amendment issues as their cause for protest.

cern, but fewer guns available in society as a whole means fewer guns available for criminals to steal from law-abiding citizens. It also means that it's much easier to spot the difference between a legal weapon and an illegal one. (The illegal one is the one someone has.)

But to remove them entirely from the population places the citizens of the United States at an insurmountable disadvantage, should we band together in rebellion against the establishment. Total disarmament places us at intense risk of tyranny. With nothing to fear from the people, government would likely tend towards a police state.

To hear the activists, on either side of this issue, one might imagine that there's no possible middle ground. But an obvious solution comes to mind:

Outlaw military level weaponry among civilians. Personal defense and hunting weapons should remain legal. At the same time, provide for constitutional provisions which 1. Require each state to maintain a military level stockpile of weaponry, securely contained and inaccessible to civilians or the federal government, and 2. Provide for a method by which a state can decide to rebel, converting its police force to an insulated defense force, and opening up the aforementioned

stockpile to be used in defense of the state.

This should satisfy those citizens who worry about the tyranny of the federal government, while still preventing individuals from taking violent action which is not representative of the views of their immediate society. It would, further, provide for sufficient threat to the federal government to prevent it from threatening the freedom of its citizens, hopefully forestalling any eventual need for those stockpiles.

Finally, it would solve the very important social problem of the incredibly awkward phrasing and punctuation of the second amendment as it exists today.

The failures of our court system

Troy Davis's case represents another failure of U.S. courts

By JULISSA ABREU
Correspondent

On September 21, 2011, Troy Davis was sentenced to death by lethal injection even though there wasn't any evidence linking him to the murder of Georgia Officer Mark MacPhail on August 19th, 1989.

In the year 2009, the Supreme Court of the United States ordered the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia to consider new evidence that could not be found at the time of the murder, proving his innocence.

Prosecutors claim that ballistic evidence linked bullets from another scene where there was a shooting allegedly done by Davis were also found in the scene of the MacPhail shooting, although the gun was never found.

An evidentiary hearing was held in June 2010, including seven of the nine original witnesses who testified in the year 1991, but this time, they had changed their stories.

No physical evidence, no honest eye-witness testimonies and nearly one million signatures to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles could not spare the life of Troy Davis.

On August 18, 1989, Davis and friend, Darell Collins, were leaving a friend's house when a passing car's passengers yelled obscenities to him. Davis allegedly fired into the car,

shooting Michael Cooper in the face.

They continued on and met with Sylvester Coles, who was in a heated argument with another man, Larry Young, near a Burger King.

Officer MacPhail, who was working security, attempted to stop the gunman from pistol-whipping Larry Young when he was shot twice and killed.

Witnesses Redd Coles, Larry Young, Antoine Williams, Harriet Murray and Dorothy Ferrell all testified that Davis was wearing a white shirt and struck Larry Young and then shot MacPhail twice. Steven

Saunders also testified that he could not identify the gunman, and Robert Grizzard said Troy Davis was the murderer. During the hearing on June 2010, witness Antoine Williams said he did not know who shot MacPhail and that he was illiterate therefore he did not know what he was signing in the police statements made in 1989.

Other witnesses, Kevin Macqueen and Jeffrey Sapp, testified that Davis had not really confessed the murder to them. They lied because of fear and pressure put on them by police officers in order to get revenge on Troy Davis.

Another former witness, Anthony Hargrove, testified that Redd Coles had admitted to the killing of MacPhail, not Davis.

A total of 34 witnesses gave their testimonies, and because of the confusing stories, the testimonies had little say in Davis's sentencing.

During the 20 years between conviction and execution, Davis attracted the attention of many Americans who felt that the American justice system was not fair on him.

Many politicians and leaders, such as former President Jimmy Carter, Pope Benedict XVI,

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and U.S. Congressman Bob Barr, attempted to get Troy Davis a new trial or evidentiary hearings.

On July 2007, September 2008 and October 2008, execution dates were set, then, later, stayed right before the execution was to take place.

"Being placed on death row is a punishment itself and being told your death is going to be rescheduled for another time, three times, is an act of cruelty and torture especially on a man who was never proven to be guilty.

"They are just hurting everyone involved in this case by playing with his death," says Sara Ramirez, Criminal Justice major at NECC.

"In my three years of taking these law courses I've learned that we have ethical rules to take in consideration for the sentencing of others. This Troy Davis case was based on revenge. He could've at least been sentenced to life in jail."

Cases like those of Troy Davis and Casey Anthony, declared not guilty of first degree murder even though forensic evidence was found, make one consider what type of justice system we have.

Does our government really care about what Americans want when it ignores the petition of one million signatures to spare life of one man?

Is death really a punishment when in reality it's a way out of facing our consequences?

"May God have mercy on your souls, may God bless your souls." - Troy Davis's last words before execution.



Photo by Oliver Douliery via MCT campus

Supporters of Troy Davis gather across the road from Georgia's death row prison in Jackson, Georgia, Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Opinion

Medicare Alert

The United States is facing a healthcare crisis

BY MARY CORSO
Correspondent

Elderly ladies and gentlemen in the United States are running into problems as they begin to live long lives.

The baby boomer population is very high, which is causing problems. Elders are not getting the Medicare and help they need. Nursing homes are starting to accept private payers over those who have Medicare and Medicaid. As the older population continues to live much longer, more financial problems arise.

People who thought they would be financially okay after they retired are now finding out that they do not have enough because they outlive their retirement funds.

"As the proud patriarch of a suc-

cessful family, James Kempthorne isn't happy about having to rely on his children for help. But he's not alone. Nearly 10 million adult children over age 50 in the United States provide care or financial help to their aging parents," says Alan Greenblatt.

Health care costs takes up a majority of the economy. It is not all about the Social Security and retirement benefits, because medical prices themselves are extremely high and continue to increase.

Some hospitals are starting to make cuts to their staff.

This is also causing problems for elders to get the help they need. These things are all causing stress on the government and our economy.

As the population increases, the money spent on health care also rises.

This has become a large problem across the United States.

Retirement ages are increasing, meaning people will have to work longer so they can save up for Social Security to come into full

effect. But since handicapped rates are going up, it makes it difficult for some elderly people to work more.

The Social Security and Medicare programs are having a hard time giving people what they need because they're retiring earlier and living longer.

Retirement plans are becoming less of an option for some employees.

These problems and concerns are not just affecting the baby boomers and elderly, but the younger adults too.

Potentially, this could be a concern that programs are becoming too expensive and taking up room and benefits, leaving very little for the young adults.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid have all been around for a very long time, and are now being debated because they cost too much.

These programs and benefits are very important to the elderly, and one day the younger generations are going to be in the same position.

PTSD in modern war

Veterans suffer psychologically, with insufficient support

BY LYNNE BOUDREAU
Correspondent

Soldiers returning from the Middle East with PTSD may find counseling beneficial with the help of their peers.

With access to the world while in the center of war, today's generation of soldier is that much closer to his comrades than the Vietnam and WWII era soldier.

Michael Ingham sees these differences every day at his job as Haverhill's Director of Veterans' Services. Ingham, a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, who served during the Vietnam and Cold War era as well as in the Middle East, has witnessed this change in service men and women over the course of his career.

"These men and women are entering the war differently. They are more connected to each other than ever via the social media. Having such a huge network of friends raises their stress factor when one is injured or killed.

"The effects of war are hitting these kids so much harder," said Ingham.

PTSD is something Ingham is familiar with. He said he continues to deal with Vietnam Vets, many who have suffered through failed marriages, lost jobs, and social pressures.

In his office, he said he has directed many WWII veterans into counseling.

The Veterans of WWII had little to no counseling. Many felt they could handle it on their own and buried the horrors of war upon returning to civilian life.

"It was the tough guy way of thinking," said Ingham.

For Vietnam Veterans social change brought a newer generation of Vets together.

As the world expanded it became more acceptable to get help for war related issues. Acknowledging common problems, they searched out therapy for a syndrome which we now call PTSD.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, formerly known as shell shock

"I've seen 75, and 80 year old guys come in with the very same issues," Ingham said. After placing them into therapy they've told him, 'I should have done this 50 years ago.'

At the rate things are going Ingham estimates the need for counseling will double for today's vets over the next ten years.

Therapists of the Vietnam vet are retiring along with them. "The need for therapy will rise significantly. These issues are not going to be fixed in a year. Many will need a lifetime commitment," he said.

"Returning Iraq veterans could benefit, preferably from their peers, to fulfill such a commitment with modern therapies," said Ingham

Facebook: relationship-safe?

The social dangers of social networks

BY LUANIS BELTRE
Correspondent

Trust is arguably one of the biggest issues couples have. It used to be that people were just paranoid of their partners meeting someone at a bar, or a co-worker who spends more time with your partner than you do.

But now, they don't even have to leave the house. They can meet someone in the comfort of their own home via social networks.

Other than connecting with friends and family, social networks can serve as a dating service.

It provides you with a profile photo, a small description, and a person's relationship status.

Relationship status can be relationship ruining factor number one.

If someone fails to advertise

that they are in a relationship, then the world is led to believe that they are single, and the stage is set for an argument.

One of the biggest causes of arguments on Facebook is the personal messaging.

Messages can be sent without your friends, or significant others' knowledge.

Information is exchanged privately between two people. You can see how this can be a cause for conflict. A new form of paranoia is born.

A girlfriend may feel threatened by the fact that her boyfriend can privately chat with any girl he finds attractive online. Or a boyfriend can go psycho if he thinks his girlfriend's ex has been messaging her.

Messaging can also be misinterpreted. A winking smiley face can be mistaken as a flirty gesture, a word or phrase maybe taken out of context, or a joke taken the wrong way.

Photographs can also act as fuel to a fire. If your girlfriend's Twitter profile picture is too racy

and all of a sudden she has ten new male followers, a serious conversation with your girlfriend may be in the near future.

If your boyfriends ex-girlfriend decides she wants to tweet about your boyfriend and the love they once shared, then a confrontation with her or your boyfriend will soon follow.

Facebook and Twitter are without a doubt some of the most revolutionary social networking sites of our time.

With over 500 million active Facebook users, chances are you and your significant other both contribute to the growing number of users.

People from around the world can connect and come together, friends and family can keep in contact, and romances can flourish.

But can there be a downside to all this connection? How strong does your relationship have to be to survive this social network frenzy? Do social networks really affect someone's relationship?

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

Prevalence of rudeness

Contrasting the awesome, the so-so, and the inconsiderate

BY CHANTAL MCGOVERN
Executive Editor

In life, we tend to encounter three types of people, the awesome, so-so and inconsiderate.

The awesome are the charming, nice, and polite people no matter what their mood is. They are always willing to stop and converse with you.

The so-so are the people we don't exactly like, but are bearable.

However, lately, through my encounters at NECC, I have found that there are more and more inconsiderate people out there.

They take their anger out on others for no apparent reason, and frankly, it's uncalled for.

Now, I am not innocent, I can be in a bad mood, but my parents taught me to be polite and courteous towards others. I try to hold the door for people and acknowledge the existence of others, even if I don't want to.

Basically, I treat others the way I want to be treated, and that is with respect.

But, apparently, others were not taught the same.

In fact, a few weeks back, I saw some guy basically screaming at someone because he had to pay a quarter for a color copy on campus. Seriously, he was yelling over a quarter.

After this he left the building huffing and puffing saying something like "I have to pay to go to this f----- school and I have to pay for copies too. This is the last f----- semester I am going to this f----- school."

Call me old fashioned, but I was appalled at this behavior.

How can someone scream literally in the face of a stranger and go on with their day?

Everyone has their bad days. But to yell over something so petty and ruin someone's day is almost immoral.

It probably took more energy and time to scream and yell, than to actually earn a quarter.

Honestly, is it worth it?

When you show your aggression in such a manner, then people are going to fear you. If peo-

ple fear you, then they aren't going to talk to you, and, certainly, you won't make friends.

Frankly, the next time I saw this guy on campus, I put my head down and walked as fast as possible. I thought he was going to scream at me too.

Then, another incident occurred a few weeks back in my class, which left me absolutely dumbfounded, although not nearly as bad. But, appalling, nonetheless.

There was a girl that was eating a bagel in class and got up to throw away her trash wasn't a trashcan. Well, to her inconvenience she found that the trashcan wasn't there, so she left the trash on a nearby desk.

Basically, she turned her inconvenience into a problem for someone else to deal with. Since it was just too hard to walk outside the classroom about 25 steps to a trashcan, then walk the 25 steps back.

This event may seem insignificant, but people do things like this all the time.

It is simply laziness, which makes the job of the others more difficult because we don't want to be inconvenienced.

But, the inconsiderate and angry aren't just at Northern Essex. No, no. They are everywhere, and we are bound to run into them on more than one occasion. Despite their anger, though, we shouldn't let them ruin our day.

With that said, there are also the awesome people out there.

Who are always willing to stop and ask how your day is. They always wave and acknowledge your existence, even when they don't want to. This are the people, which others will stick up for and that get respect.

I have to say that these people deserve a pat on the back.

If you are like me, you also notice that along with being more pleasant to deal with they are also happier.

Lastly, if you are one of those angry or inconsiderate people, stop and think before you act. It sounds cliché, but treat people the way you want to be treated because you will get the same respect back. Also, if you lack the social skills to make friends, there are insightful e-how's on how to be pleasant.

News

Campus News

NECC Recognized as Achieving the Dream

Northern Essex Community College has been recognized as a leader in the national student completion movement by Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit. Northern Essex is one of 23 institutions designated as a 2011 Leader College for demonstrating sustained improvement and accomplishments on key student achievement indicators.

Two additional Massachusetts community colleges, Bunker Hill and Roxbury, were also selected.

Northern Essex has been participating in Achieving the Dream, a national effort to close the gaps in student success, particularly among minority and low-income students, for the past four years.

Funding and support from Achieving the Dream has allowed Northern Essex to carefully review and measure current practices and develop new initiatives to help improve student outcomes such as retention and graduation rates.

As a result of its participation in Achieving the Dream, the college has created math tutoring centers in Haverhill and Lawrence; introduced supplemental instructors in challenging courses; developed a College Success skills course; expanded and improved academic advising services; and made several new policy changes with an eye toward student success.

"These efforts are already showing results," says Dr. Lane A. Glenn, president of Northern Essex. As one example, Glenn cites the 25% increase in students who successfully completed Basic Algebra II, a developmental course, and then College Algebra or College Algebra & Trigonometry (college level courses). The success rate rose from 49% in 2006/07 to 64% in 2009/10.

A focus on student success is important, says Glenn, because the United States is falling behind other countries on important measurements such as the number of adults with college degrees.

"Right now, three quarters of the fastest growing occupations require more than a high school diploma. And yet, less than 50 percent of working-age adults living in Massachusetts have at least a two-year degree. That's why Northern Essex has made improving student outcomes, both course retention and graduation rates, its college-wide priority."

This is the third year that Achieving the Dream has recognized Leader Colleges.

"The work of improving student success is very difficult, critically important, and urgent," said Achieving the Dream President & CEO William Trueheart. "Northern Essex Community College has carefully analyzed student outcomes evidence and has implemented sustained positive student-centered changes. They deserve enormous recognition for their focus on equity and excellence and for their extraordinary contributions to their communities and our nation."

Conceived in 2004 as a national initiative by Lumina Foundation for Education and eight national partner organizations, Achieving the Dream has evolved into an independent nonprofit working with 160 institutions in 30 states and the District of Columbia, helping 3.5 million students.

Achieving the Dream is focused on creating a "culture of evidence" on community college campuses in which data collection and analysis drive efforts to identify problems that prevent students from succeeding—particularly low-income students and students of color—and develop programs to help students stay in school and receive a certificate or diploma or transfer to a four-year institution.

Lawrence police in need

Public outcry over violence in Lawrence at its loudest

By LAURA NICHOLSON
Correspondent

Lawrence recently received \$631,000 in state funds to hire more police officers in hopes to decrease the crime rate, which has become higher since many officers were laid off in July 2010. Residents are relieved and hopeful but not ready to celebrate just yet.

"As long as there is evil in the world, crime is going to exist," said Isaiah Gonzalez, former resident of Lawrence, Mass.

Gonzalez is not the only person who feels this way about the recent increase of violence in Lawrence. It seems this past summer has been a combination of murders, violence and chaos. Gonzalez is one of the many people in and around Lawrence who believe this mayhem is due to the small amount of police officers on duty since last year's budget cuts.

"They need to increase the police force once again," Gonzalez said. "But without education and more discipline, I don't see any growth in the future for Lawrence."

Mohammad Rahma, owner of Crown Fried Chicken in Lawrence, one of the most popular places to eat during weekend after hours, says recent shootings and violence have definitely impacted his business. "People are scared. We need more police."

Crown Fried Chicken is located on Broadway in the same plaza as La Guira, a popular nightclub in Lawrence. Last summer, a case of revenge left one man dead and three shot and injured inside La Guira. An active security guard at this nightclub, who wishes to remain unnamed, believes it's not just



Andy Robinson Photo

The Dimitry building on the Lawrence campus of NECC.

Lawrence, but outside partygoers who contribute to the violence as well.

"Young people these days think the way to handle things is fighting," he said. "Se fue de las manos," meaning "Things get out of hand."

According to Rene Graziano, owner of a new business called Cafeteria on Essex Street in Lawrence, there is a lot of anger in this generation which is causing the increase in violence.

"Kids find gangs to replace family," said Graziano. "There is a lot of anger. They go to clubs young and get drunk. Put drugs and alcohol with all that anger and they are just a time bomb waiting to go off." Graziano prides himself on taking his children to church and making them stay in school so they will have a better life. "They learn principles and morals."

Graziano also works as a safety officer for the Lawrence High School, and knows how

important it is to have more police back in the city. "Closing the clubs early won't help. When you drink, you always think of the last hour. People are still going to get drunk."

In the past, Graziano has worked as a security guard at a Lawrence club and said there wasn't as much night club violence as there is now. He believes "a police car outside the club" will scare more people into going to their cars and leaving the scene once the clubs are over.

Lawrence residents are hoping for the best from the state hiring more police, but know there are many more changes that need to be made.

"Our generation, not just Lawrence needs to change," adds Graziano. "If you use drugs and have kids, how are you going to teach your children?"

C building gets art update



Andy Robinson Photo

The artist and her work. Michaela Dutra-Lowell stands proudly next to her mural, just a week before the official unveiling.

NECC graduate ready for her work to be revealed.

By ANDY ROBINSON
News Editor

When an artist says something along the lines of, "I was extremely nervous -- and really unsure -- but I still said yes," which is what Michaela Dutra-Lowell said when reflecting on her mural for the Spurk building, you know the finished product is going to be worth seeing.

Northern Essex has welcomed the talents of recent graduate Michaela Dutra-Lowell. What once hung in the main lobby adegecent to the painting of the Haverhill intersection is gone. And it comes as no surprise, due to it being a tad outdated for modern tastes.

When asked about the process and the mass size of the piece (roughly 10 by 6 feet), she laughs.

"You've seen how big that thing is right? I've never worked larger than [this,] she said, pointing to a notebook.

She also pointed out how painting isn't her favorite medium.

"I hate working large. I usually don't work with paint. Paint tends to be expensive and messy. I usually just use markers and colored pencils," she said.

"It's funny, when I was painting, I wouldn't let myself think about how big this thing actually was."

All the certain criteria for an artist tackling a mural project, such as a lot of experience in the medium, desire to execute a certain medium and so forth seemed absent. But that didn't stop Dutra-Lowell. Using all the skills an artist requires after years of practice and execution, the mural couldn't look more perfect.

Work began on the mural in July, and didn't stop until just recently. Often times, Dutra-Lowell would work long hour days, but in accordance with the bus schedule. Long nights (some till 10pm) would require rides, but dedication to the mural was strong.

The mural itself is a portrait of the modern Northern Essex Community College image. In the mural, tributes are paid to almost all the popular majors and areas of study available, including criminal justice, applied sciences, hearing impaired studies, and others.

Dutra-Lowell said, "The idea on the painting -- I wanted everything connected."

One of the interesting aspects of the mural is the attention on the Lawrence campus, which is more often than not forgotten about in contrast to the Haverhill campus.

Dutra-Lowell's final thoughts on her work, which could stay up for the next few decades, "It's really like, 'Holy crap, people are going to see this'."

The official unveiling is on Wednesday, October 5, in the Spurk building at 11:45a.m. Students will be able to talk to Dutra-Lowell. President Lane Glenn will also be attending the unveiling.

News



Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been compiled to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring assistance from Eagle Security on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses. This log covers incidents between September 7, 2011 to October 3, 2011.

From September 7-September 25, no incidents were reported.

September 26- A student had a seizure in the C building. An ambulance was called.

Vietnam vet to visit

'National Day on Writing' brings peace activist author

S. Brian Willson, a prominent Vietnam veteran turned peace activist and former Massachusetts resident, will appear Thursday, Oct. 20, at Northern Essex Community College, Bldg E, Room 155, in honor of National Day on Writing, to talk about and read from his psycho-historical memoir, "Blood on the Tracks: The Life and Times of S. Brian Willson". The event takes place from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Willson, who lost both legs below the knee in 1987 when he was run over by a U.S. Navy munitions train at the Concord, California Naval Weapons Station, kicked off his book tour by cycling from Portland, Oregon to San Francisco on his three-wheeled, hand-powered recumbent cycle. The author said he wanted to demonstrate a mode of personal transportation that reduces dependence upon fossil fuels.

Willson's history includes experiences in the Boston area and Western Massachusetts in the 1980s.

He served as legislative aide to State Senator Jack Backman (Brookline), working on prison, mental health, and veterans' issues; he was a worker-owner of New England Country Dairy in Greenfield; he directed the Western Massachusetts Agent Orange Information Project and, later, the Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center in Greenfield. He also co-founded the Veterans Education Project in Amherst.

In 1986, Willson was one of four veterans who staged a 47-day, water-only fast on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, DC in response to continued funding of Reagan's Contra wars in Central America. One year later, on September 1, 1987, he was again thrust into the public eye when he was run over and nearly killed by an accelerating US Navy train while engaging in a well publicized, nonviolent blockade in protest of weapons shipments to El Salvador.

"My own government labeled me a terrorist and attempted to murder me," says Willson. "My story is strongly relevant for activists today in this climate of an unending 'war on terror.'"

For more information about Brian Willson's book and upcoming cycling tour, visit his book tour blog at bloodon-thetracks.info, or look for his Blood on the Tracks book page on Facebook and book and author pages at pmpress.org.

Fall 2011 celebrations

MA

Applefest 2011 at Wachusett Mountain
499 Mountain Road
Princeton, MA
October 15-16

Cranberry Harvest Celebration
158 Tihonet Road
Wareham, MA
October 8-10, 2011

Haunted Happening (month long events)
Salem, MA

King Richard's Faire 2011
235 Main Street
Carver, MA
September 4-October 23

Newburyport's Fall Harvest Festival 2011
Newburyport, MA
October 9-10

Oktoberfest 2011
Bartlett Mall, High Street
Newburyport, MA
October 15

Smolak Farms
Pumpkin Festival and Great Pumpkin Day!
October 15-16

Topsfield Fair 2011
207 Boston Street,
Route 1 Topsfield, MA
September 30 - October 10

NH
Applecree Farms Harvest Festival
Hampton Falls NH
October - ongoing

Attitash Oktoberfest 2011
Bartlett, NH
October 8-9, 2011

Keene Pumpkin Festival 2011
Downtown Keene, NH
October 22, 2011

Oktoberfest 2011 at Loon Mountain
Lincoln, NH
October 8-9 2011

Sandwich Fair 2011
7 Wentworth Hill Road
(Route 109 North)
Center Sandwich, NH
October 8-10, 2011

The Seacoast Fringe Festival 2011
Portsmouth
October 8, 9, 10, 2011

Warner Fall Foliage Festival 2011
Downtown Warner, NH
October 7-9, 2011

Maine
Fryeburg Fair
Fryeburg Maine
October 2-9, 2011

Also for an Interactive map showing the peak foliage location and times:
<http://www.yankeefoliage.com/peak-foliage-forecast-map/>

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Features

Achieving the dream

Cancer survivor receives full scholarship to BU

BY NICHOLAS FUSCO
Correspondent

For 18-year-old cancer survivor Charles 'CJ' Bemister, Northern Essex Community College represents more than just opportunity, but rather a fresh start after his high school education was abruptly interrupted when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancerous disease of the lymph nodes, in his sophomore year at Salem High School.

After diagnosis, Bemister was faced with two options regarding his education: He could either repeat his sophomore year or take the GED test, and begin furthering his education immediately. Not wanting to repeat a year and stay at Salem High School any longer, he chose to receive his GED diploma and start taking classes at Northern Essex.

"I could get to college faster and not have to go back to Salem High," he said.

He started classes at Northern Essex in January 2011 with a double major in Business Management and Marketing. He found the process of

transitioning from Salem High to Northern Essex fairly easy.

Soon after, he received a full scholarship to Boston University from the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund Clinic, for teenagers with cancer. For the scholarship to take effect he must first complete two years at Northern Essex with good grades.

He plans on using his degree from Northern Essex to eliminate core courses and begin working towards his goal of earning a business degree from Boston University. When asked why he chose enrolling at Northern Essex he said, "To take less core courses, just jump into my major courses, and graduate faster from Boston University."

Following in his father's footsteps, he plans on one day running his own business using what he learns from Northern Essex and Boston University. "I think it will help me run a business better and make more money in the future," he said.

However, he said he has one future goal he plans on achieving in between graduating from Boston University and opening his own business: "Going into the Marines or Navy and be a Navy SEAL or a marine first recon soldier."

Currently working to his full potential, Northern Essex Community College is the first step for Charles Bemister to achieving a fulfilling and successful life.

GSA promotes tolerance

BY CHANTAL MCGOVERN
Executive Editor

The Gay/Straight Alliance club at Northern Essex has the general goal to promote tolerance and acceptance between all lifestyles.

The organization better known by the name GSA wants all people to be seen as equal, it doesn't matter whether they are transsexual, gay or straight. Since at the end of the day, we are all human.

"I believe highly in the fact that we are all equal," Michael Martino, the president of GSA said. "As a gay male, I have faced my fair share of homophobia back in high school and that is a pure instance of what doesn't kill me makes me stronger."

Martino started a GSA at his high school, which helped him get through difficult times.

"I saw the impact that it had on individuals and the school as a whole," He said. "With the strength I have gained from facing these adversities I would like to give back to the community and help others that may be going through a rough time."

Martino was shy when he first came to NECC. However, he credits GSA to allowing him to come out of his shell and meet others that hold the same beliefs he does.

"I am hoping to help create a stronger sense of unity amongst



MCT Campus Photo

Would you like to win something that looks as wacky as this? Well, on Oct. 14, the Gay/Straight Alliance club at NECC will be holding a wacky raffle contest in which you can win unique items.

the student population at NECC"

C-building lobby.

Martino said, "I am hoping that GSA can help breakdown the barriers and the negative stigma that people have against different groups of people."

GSA has already been hard at work. They kicked off the bake sale season on Sept. 30, selling delicious treats and t-shirts in the

Also, in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness month, GSA is holding a "Wacky Tacky Raffle" in the lobby of the C-building on Friday, Oct. 14 from 10-1 p.m., where unique and tacky items will be raffled off. All the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Beth Israel

Festival offers a taste of Italy

Haverhill's Italian Festival proves to be a big hit

BY ASHLEY SHENA
Correspondent

The Seventh Annual Italian Festival came to Washington Street in downtown Haverhill Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

From 12pm until 4pm generous vendors offered authentic Italian delicacies, ranging anywhere from loaded meat pies to ricotta-filled cannoli.

Welcoming and upbeat music and dancing families could be seen everywhere.

The festival highlighted festivities aimed at pleasing all ages such as: face painting for children, the ultimate sauce competition to reveal Haverhill's "best sauce", the annual "Miss Italy Pageant" and a wine tasting for \$5 a glass.

The very down home and welcoming general atmosphere of the festival was enjoyed by festival attendees who appeared laid back and happy to be spending a casual 80 degree sunny Sunday enjoying quality time with their families and eating great food for a cheap price.

Many senior citizens attending could be seen enjoying the thrills

and music of the day with friends while families and mothers with baby strollers made an appearance in the late afternoon.

It was an event for all ages and almost anyone could find something of interest to engage in; whether it be eating, dancing, painting or meeting other locals.

The Bert Scott Band went onstage at 1:30pm and got the crowd revved up with their rendition of Chicago's, "25 or 6 to 4".

The sauce competition, held in the Garibaldi club on Washington Street, housed a series of 20 sauces, both with meat and meatless.

Contestants served taste-testers a sample of each of their sauces and the winners were chosen by the general population by a tabulated account of all votes.

Vendors such as Andino Pizza, Papa Ginos, local bakeries and delicatessens offered delicious readily hot and available food at the festival such as: meat pies, calzones, pizza by the slice, cannoli, gelato, authentic rice balls, sausage and pepper submarines, chicken kebabs, antipastos and wonderful, thin-cut salami, mortadella and prosciutto.

The crowd seemed beyond pleased; mouths full, their bellies fuller and general mannerisms appeared quite docile and relaxed - Everyone seemed taken back to a wonderful home-cooked Italian

meal they remember their grandmother used to make!

The seventh annual Miss Italy Pageant sparked off on the main stage at 3pm and continued until the close of the festival.

Five beautiful young ladies took the stage and wowed the audience with their beautiful dress, knowledge of the Italian culture and their efforts to give back to the community.

The young ladies pranced around the stage effortlessly as onlookers heard their in-depth interview questions and views of the world.

Upon the close of the festival, 4 year old Jenny Bridges of Haverhill insisted, "This is the best party ever! Can we take the pizza men home?"

Clearly the younger generations can see the true purpose of the festival-to include and welcome everyone and anyone to celebrate the origins of Haverhill and one of the most deeply-rooted cultures in American History.

It was a lovely 80 degree sunny day in downtown Haverhill.

The festival went on without a hitch, security was good, people were happy and the sun shone down on everyone.

Hopefully next year the Eighth Annual Italian Festival will enjoy weather as nice and an audience as



Courtesy Photo

The Sons of Italy, Drum and Bugle Corp march at the Italian Festival in Haverhill.

kind and appreciative.

The festival itself was a completely volunteer-based contribution and the many sponsors; Northern Essex Community College, Pentucket Medical, NMTV Credit Union, Trinity Emergency Medical Service, Pentucket Bank, Haverhill Bank and the International Childcare Center of Greater Boston donated money willingly to make it

possible for everyone to have an enjoyable day and to remember the firm roots Italian culture has in the city of Haverhill.

All in all, the contributions of all companies, vendors and those that made it possible made it apparent that a lot of effort and time from loving persons went into making this festival possible.

Arts and Entertainment

"50/50" is funniest film of 2011

Actors give stand out performances in box office hit

BY CHANTAL MCGOVERN
Executive Editor

"50/50" starts off with the main character, Adam (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) running through town. He reaches an intersection, the light is green, but there aren't any cars to be seen or heard.

Adam is a cautious person. He doesn't drink or smoke, and he's an avid recycler.

Besides being a 27-year-old without his license (since it raises your chances of getting killed), Adam seems to have everything going for him.

He and his beautiful artist girlfriend (Bryce Dallas-Howard) have moved into the "domestic stage," and Adam currently has his dream job.

But life-changing news is about to turn his world upside-down.

Adam has cancer. A malignant tumor located in his lower back to be precise. And his chances for survival are, as the title suggests, 50/50.

After this news finally sinks in,

Adam begins to realize that his life isn't as great as he thought it was.

His girlfriend isn't nearly as nice as we were lead to believe, only sticking around out of guilt.

His best friend, Kyle (Seth Rogen) tried to make the best of the situation-- he uses Adam's cancer as a way to pick up girls.

After hearing the news, his mother, played by the brilliant Angelic Huston, fusses over him to no end. It gets to the point where Adam screens his phone calls.

Despite the grim subject of the film, it is actually really funny.

Rogen delivers his best performance yet as the laugh out loud funny Kyle. He provides comic relief during the most dramatic moments of the film.

Ironically enough, the cancer that is killing Adam may just end up saving him as well.

"50/50" is the funniest movie of the year. Much funnier than the ridiculous, childish, poorly written and directed 'Bridesmaids' everyone is raving about.

Gordon-Levitt gives the best performance of his career. He doesn't just play a cancer patient -- he becomes one.

Everything from his body lan-



MCT Campus photo

Bryce Dallas-Howard and Joseph Gordon-Levitt star in "50/50" a comedy that is about cancer. Seriously, we're not lying.

guage to his voice is proof enough that he is one of the most talented actors in Hollywood today.

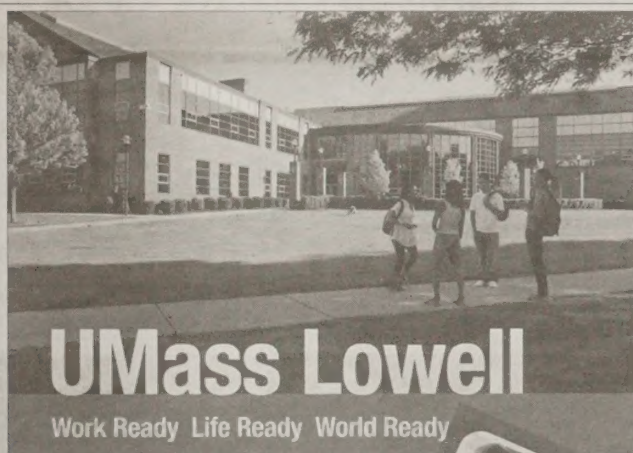
He has a natural ability; he never overacts and he definitely never underacts.

Anyone can relate to Adam in the sense that as human beings we can sometimes pretend like everything is okay, when really it isn't.

By the end of the film, the entire audience was in tears, men and

woman alike.

The subject-matter and the emotions are real. It is better than other comedies because it does something other films don't. It's honest.



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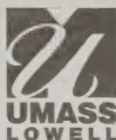
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Arts & Entertainment

Foster the People

Indie-rock group takes Boston by storm

BY SHANNON KEATING
A&E Editor

What do barefoot musicians, flying bras, and Doogie Howser all have in common?

Under normal circumstances, probably nothing.

But were you at The House of Blues last Thursday night?

There I was, sprinting down the streets of Fenway in the pouring rain, humming the melody to "Helena Beat" as I soured.

One more turn onto Lansdowne Street and... Eureka!

There it stands, neon sign ablaze, just waiting for eager-faced music fans to enter its walls.

At about 7:45 p.m., the lights dim and a band called Reptar takes the stage.

Reptar is up and coming band on the indie-alternative circuit. Their sound can only be described as Foster the People with a reggae kick.

Reptar proceeds to play all five songs from their recently released EP

"Oblangle Fizz Y'all".

Their bare feet and Hawaiian shirts compliment the band's all-around surfer-dude demeanor.

If The Radio Dept. and Zoëy Deschanel (minus her Billie Holiday-ish twang) got together and formed a band, you'd have a pretty close idea of what the second opening act sounds like.

At 9:00 p.m., a band called *Cults* takes the stage. The mysterious dark-haired lead singer, Madeline Follin, has a sweet innocence in her voice that has me overcome with inexplicable happiness.

Their song "Go Outside" has me on my feet and swaying side to side. The tranquil sounds of the glockenspiel make me feel like a kid again.

I'm sad to see them leave.

My spirits lift at 10:00 p.m. when the main attraction, Foster the People, finally start their set.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the band Foster the People, you've probably heard their hit song "Pumped Up Kicks", which made it to No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 list.

Their corresponding music video scored two nominations at this year's Video Music Awards.

They kick off the show

with their whimsical song, "Houdini".

And during their second number, a fan takes off her bra and throws it onstage, where it hits lead singer Mark Foster in the face.

"I have a feeling this is gonna be a crazy show," Foster retorts.

He then drapes his leopard-print trophy over his microphone stand, where it remains for the rest of the show.

The crowd really gets going during the song "Don't Stop (Color On the Walls)".

The only time I do stop is to swat at the occasional beach ball dancing overhead.

Foster is all over the stage, doing a dance maneuver that combines the running man and the moonwalk.

The seizure-inducing strobe lights are irksome for the first few minutes, but slowly blend with the atmosphere like stars in a sky.

There's a touching moment when Foster recognizes an audience member from a previous show (whom he deems a dead ringer for Vinnie from Doogie Howser).

A collective AWWW sweeps over the crowd. "I'm glad you're back, buddy," Foster beams.

The night slows down a bit



From left to right, drummer Mark Pontius, lead singer Mark Foster, and bassist Cubbie Fink.



Courtesy Photo

The crowd goes wild at The House of Blues in Boston, September 29, 2011.

Not so trivial trivia

Trivia proves to be a cheap form of entertainment

BY SAM SILVERMAN
Correspondent

Stump Trivia, a fun and inexpensive form of entertainment, is a popular trend that is popping up at more and more locations both local and nationally.

What started out as small pub trivia events out of three bars in Boston has exploded into a national brand expanding to more cities and states every week.

The West Roxbury based company began hosting events in Boston a little over four years ago and began expanding to more pubs and restaurants across Massachusetts with high demand.

They are now in hundreds of cities and are celebrating this week the arrival into their 14th state; Hawaii.

What happens is Stump Trivia is brought in by the restaurant or bar owner to stir up business during the slower weeknights. They

send a trivia jockey to set up the game and its free to play.

Teams of up to six eat, drink, and play along with chances to win prizes at the end of the night.

The top two or three teams go home with prizes but everyone goes home a winner. The bar and restaurant increase business on slower weeknights, friends spend time together, and everyone has fun.

Young or old, there is something for everyone. Trivia subjects range from history, geography, science, and current events, to TV, music, movies, sports, and pop culture.

"Not only is it a great night out, but it's cheap, convenient, and a great way to catch up with friends and get a little competitive," said Chris Charette, a regular down at The Tap Brewpub for trivia night.

Rather than the hassle of heading in Boston for a night out, Stump has a ton of local spots for a fun weeknight hangout.

Tuesdays are hosted at The Peddler's Daughter, 45 Wingate Street, Haverhill and T.G.I. Fridays in Methuen at the Loop starting at 9 pm. Wednesdays are hosted at



MCT Campus Photo

Friends test their knowledge over food and beverages at Trivia night.

The Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal Street in Lawrence at 8 pm and The Tap Brewpub, 100 Washington Street, Haverhill at 8:30 pm.

Events are also held Thursdays at J.P. McBride's, 27 Lafayette Square, Haverhill at 8 pm. If it feels like there is nothing new or

fun to do anymore then look no further than these local hangouts to find Stump Trivia celebrating this exciting new trend.

Arts & Entertainment

"The Debt" misses its target

New action film fails to impress this journalist

BY EMMA WARD
Correspondent

There may be nothing more unfair than to criticize a thirty-year-old actress for insufficient similarity to Helen Mirren.

Jessica Chastain is clearly doing her best as Mirren's younger self in *The Debt*, although the resemblance is tenuous in terms of both appearance and personality.

There's nothing terribly wrong with Chastain as an actress, but the wide-eyed, unknowing quality of her performance makes it less than easy to believe that even a difficult three decades could have turned her into Mirren; there may not be another actress alive who can convey such complex interiority with such small changes in expression, but if there is,

The Debt's producers haven't found her. Unfortunately, their relative amounts of screentime are indicative of the biggest problem with the film itself: the story of three Mossad agents who lie to conceal their

botched kidnapping of a former Nazi doctor (an astonishingly good Jesper Christensen) and are faced with the consequences thirty years later, it spends entirely too much time wandering around East Berlin in 1966.

It's understandable that director John Madden may have been loath to trim the lengthy flashback sequence that bogs down the middle third -- the scenes of the three increasingly desperate young agents keeping Christensen prisoner in their flat, having failed to extract him, are masterful -- but he lays it out too much time on the set-up and skimps distressingly on the outcome.

Mirren is simply very, very good as the older edition of her character, Rachel Singer, and there isn't enough of her; at times *The Debt* seems to be struggling to be two films at once, and hers isn't winning.

Which is a shame, because this could have been a major performance. Mirren's Rachel isn't the agnathic heroine she's played recently, and which a summary of the film might have led one to expect.

She's an icy, controlled public figure who's been worn hollow by three decades of unearned adulation, and if any image from this film makes

it into the collective a wareness, it's going to be her scarred, impassive face and her mouth set into a firm line under the sunglasses Rachel wears like armor. Every camera-friendly lie she's ever told is visible on her face, and when she strips down to jeans and ponytail to track an elderly mental patient who claims to be their former prisoner, it's almost shocking -- she seems to shrink two inches, age five years, and come back to life, as does the film itself whenever she's onscreen.

Aside from Christensen, who does a marvelous job of bringing his monstrous character's humanity to the front, the rest of the cast is competent but unremarkable.

The young Australian actor Sam Worthington has too much to do as David, the sullen moral compass of the group; he's not bad, but he suffers in comparison both to Ciarán Hinds, tragically underused as his older self, and to Christensen, in the scene where the latter needles him into a violent outburst.

Marton Csokas is slightly better as Stefan, who convinces the other two to cover up their failure to contain the prisoner, but neither of them has any real romantic chemistry



Courtesy Photo

Academy Award winner Helen Mirren stars in new thriller, "*The Debt*".

with Chastain, the apex of the inevitable love triangle.

Aside from Mirren and Christensen, the main reason to see this movie is visual; it looks gorgeous, even in an underlit theater pro-

jection, and the East Berlin scenes are meticulous and oddly beautiful down to the peeling paint on the apartment's walls.

The Lion King : then and now

Relive your childhood with the re-release of a classic

BY ROMEO BARNETT
Correspondent

Earlier this month, "*The Lion King*," returned to theaters in the 3D format and was met with very-

But how did "*The Lion King*" do so well, especially when 3D movies are notoriously unsuccessful?

Timing and quality. The timing has hit a perfect generational overlap; those who saw it when it first came out as children are in the prime moviegoer age demographic, and subsequently the younger generation will be exposed for the first time.



Courtesy Photo

Basically everyone in their early 20's grew up with this movie.

— Steph Gariard, Mass Art student

positive responses, making it both a financial and artistic success.

Out of all Disney films, "*Lion King*" is one of the top grossing animated features, making \$861 million worldwide. It made only slightly less than "*Finding Nemo*" at \$867 million, and both are quite close to top grossing feature (animated or otherwise), "*Toy Story 3*" at \$1000 million.

Its 3D release has made \$30 million at the box office, so far beating out both, "*Contagion*" and "*Straw Dogs*."

"Basically everyone in their early 20's grew up with this movie; we all know it, and many of us wore out our VHS players with it. Also, with its Shakespearean plot, fantastic voice acting, and some of the most memorable music to ever hit the screen, it's the most solid animated movie I've ever seen," said Steph Gariard, an animation major at Mass Art.

The original 1994 release came at the end of the "Disney Renaissance"; a time when Disney

A classic Disney film joins the 3D movement this Fall.

managed to produce several high-grossing and memorable animated movies. "*Mulan*", "*Pocahontas*", and, "*Hercules*" all come from this era.

All are mostly animated by hand, lending a certain gravitas

that computer-generated animation tends to lack.

That said, the new 3D treatment was quite reserved, making it even more successful. It was obvious that the digital artists on the effects team knew what their job

was: to enhance a movie that was already a classic, not to upstage it. This kind of discretion is rarely shown in the realm of 3D movies. The DVD and BluRay 3D versions are released October 4th.

Campus Life

Is it real? Incredible wooden sculptures

Artist's work causes second looks at NECC

BY CHANTAL MCGOVERN
Executive Editor

Sachiko Akiyama knew from the tender age of six years that she was going to be an artist.

When her teacher assigned the class to draw a picture of what they wanted to be when they grew up, Akiyama drew one of an artist and carpenter.

She wrote on the picture "When I grow up, I want to be an artist and carpenter because I like drawing and using wood."

Fast forward three decades and interestingly enough Akiyama's doing exactly what she wants to do. As it turns out, Akiyama is talented at her craft as well.

Her work has been on display at various highly respected galleries all over the United States. More recently, Akiyama's work has been on display at Northern Essex in the Bentley library.

Akiyama has been sculpting since 1998.

Despite being a successful artist, Akiyama didn't always pursue that as a career.

"I actually studied science in college. I didn't think this was allowed," Akiyama said during a visit to NECC on Sept. 30. "I actually had a friend that was in art school that encouraged me to do this."

Many people in the audience commented on how real the sculptures look and even said when they

walked into the room.

One particularly realistic one is of a girl, laying on the floor, which many people thought was actually a real person.

"It is really interesting to me that people think she is real," Akiyama says.

According to Akiyama, the sculpture is made from more than 50 pieces of wood, which were glued together into a massive sculpture. From this Akiyama carved the sculpture into the shape she wanted it.

"Yes, I have a chainsaw," Akiyama laughed. "But, I don't like it as much (as chisels) because I feel it does the work so fast."

She actually once carved from trees, however, she found that she was so limited by the shape.

Before making these large-scales, Akiyama made smaller figures. But, she found that she liked the effects of life-sized sculptures.

"If you change the scale. Then, you change the way you interact with it," she said.

Akiyama admits that the nature of her work is strenuous. In fact, she has gotten carpal tunnel syndrome and hurt her back because of it. But, she will not allow that to hold her



Jim Thomas Photo

One of Akiyama's wood and paint pieces, titled *Four Corners of a Floating World*.

back.

"But there are ways around it," Akiyama said.

Her work has been displayed at the Kohler Arts Center, numerous galleries in Boston and along with several other places all over the country.

Akiyama is also an assistant professor at Boston University.

Staying safe studying abroad

BY RACHAEL O'BRIEN
Correspondent

Following the update on a former Andover High School student who recently filed a lawsuit against two teachers for failing to supervise students and prevent alcohol during a school trip, it is important to keep in mind that anything can happen in foreign countries, even under adult supervision.

These types of incidents occur more often than they should. Though, they can be less likely to occur if students are more aware of the consequences and outcome of a situation.

According to The Eagle Tribune, this student, identified as Jane Doe, claims she was raped on a school trip when she was 16.

The alleged assault happened in April 2008, when she and her classmates went on a European trip with their school. She and her classmates had planned a party with another High School from Vermont after room checks at 11:30.

The students had been drinking that night, and Jane became intoxicated. After her classmates left the room, a Vermont student allegedly restrained and sexually assaulted her without her consent.

Would this have happened if the students had not been drinking that night?

Without blaming this victim, many people unknowingly put themselves in vulnerable situations they sometimes can not get out of.

If students are not cautious and

do not follow safety rules, it could lead to serious consequences or a tragedy such as this one, even if the decision seems appropriate at the time.

Even though many other countries have more lenient legal drinking ages, we should recognize that this could put us in vulnerable situations that may not be controllable.

International Studies Coordinator and faculty on Study Abroad trip to Ecuador, Marcy Vozzella said, "When we design Northern Essex short term study abroad courses, the faculty and international staff spend time considering the safety of our students."

Anything can happen in foreign countries.

— Rachael O'Brien

"In many cases we choose to impose rules and safety guidelines for our students to keep them safe. We do not do this to limit fun on the trips; we do it to stay safe. We have not had any safety issues on our trip and a large part, I believe that is because we choose as a group to stay together in the evenings and maintain the Student Code of Conduct while abroad."

These guidelines for study programs are given to us for a reason. They are to prevent tragedies, protect the students, and make sure students have a safe trip.

Though as students, we should always be responsible and follow the rules and guidelines of the program we are taking part in. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Victim of slavery promotes awareness

Continued from Page 1

Eventually, Fernando felt she had two choices.

She could either wait for certain death, or she had another idea, which would give her a one percent chance she could live.

"I had to take the chance. I could not let my son live thinking I had abandoned him. I had to focus on that one percent."

Fernando took three weeks to work up the courage to decide to go ahead with her idea.

She carefully worked out every detail of her plan so as to give herself the best chance of surviving.

Fernando has asked the NECC Observer to withhold the details of her plan until she reveals them during her speaking engagement at NECC this Friday, which she did go through with it.

She woke up weeks later from a coma in a hospital in Beirut.

"You will never walk again," the doctor told her, "but you need to be happy, you should be happy that you are alive."

"Don't worry doctor, I am going to walk," she replied.

Just seven months after Fernando arrived in Beirut, she was back home in Sri Lanka. The agency

did not purchase a return ticket for her. She never got paid for her work. Her parents had to borrow the money to get her back-home. Life was not the same as she had left it just a few months earlier.

The stigma of slavery labeled her a bad woman, a bad character. The community did not welcome her back with open arms.

Her parents eventually moved to a different town so she and her family could get a fresh start.

Twenty years ago she moved to America with her soon to be husband and her son.

When she got here she began to get a nagging feeling. She had always liked to write since she had been a little girl.

She began to write of her experiences, and soon had a body of work. She joined a writers group.

When she showed them her work they were very supportive and encouraged her to publish and get her story out to the public.

It was through this process that Fernando began to realize that she had been a victim.

After her book, "In Contempt of Fate," came out in 2004, Fernando was interviewed on a cable television news show about her experiences as a slave. Liora Kasten, the

Director of the American Anti-Slavery Group appeared on the same show. The AASG is the first abolitionist group in the U.S. since the American Civil War.

The two met and hit it off right away. Kasten asked her join the AASG to speak about her experiences.

"They (the AASG) gave me the platform and the backbone I did not have," says Fernando. "In America, our mission is awareness. There is no difference between race, color, poverty and country."

"There are over one million children ages six to thirteen enslaved right here in this country in sex slavery."

Fernando goes on to say there are four major categories of slavery: forced labor (predominantly domestic and agriculture), sex slavery, debt bondage, and chattel slavery.

In 2005 Fernando testified before the International Relations Committee with Congressman Christopher Smith in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. She spoke of her experiences of slavery and her ideas to abolish slavery in the 21st century.

Fernando went on to write a play called "Shattered Dreams."

The play raises awareness about

how easy it is to get trapped in slavery. It has been performed at the Cambridge Youth Center.

"Have you seen the movie 'Taken?' Fernando asks. "That happens all the time. All they (slave brokers) need is a dream they can use against you."

"They hang out with you, learning your dreams, your weaknesses," says Fernando. "They are among you."

Fernando is raising funds to have the play produced as a DVD.

She hopes to have it available to schools and universities to teach potential victims how to avoid inadvertently getting caught in the trap of slavery.

Fernando has also started the Nivasa Foundation, a non-profit organization created for the purpose of ending slavery one child at a time.

Currently the Nivasa Foundation is working on state legislation that would make slavery and human trafficking illegal in Massachusetts, raising awareness through speaking engagements and the stage play "Shattered Dreams."

Internationally, Nivasa Foundation has a project that serves the children in Sri Lanka whose have parents have been victims to

break the cycle of slavery. Nivasa means home.

"I wanted to give children a home by keeping their parents at home," says Fernando.

In order to break the cycle of human trafficking and slavery, Fernando meets the needs of children with food, clothing and education.

By providing these services, mothers are less likely to seek employment in the Middle East, thereby exposing them to human trafficking.

Fernando speaks at NECC this Friday from 12-1:30 in E-155 in Haverhill.

On Saturday, October 29th, Nivasa Foundation holds its Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser at St. Sava Church in Cambridge from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m.

There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and the Sri Lankan Music Group "Village in the City." Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

Tickets for NECC students will be discounted ten dollars and sell for \$30.00.

Please call 978-346-9707 for your reservation or nivasa.info@gmail.com. Visit nivasafoundation.org/blog page for more information.

Sports

The discussion

What's the discussion?:

Concussions a major problem in all sports.

By JOSH PELTONOVICH
Sports Editor

In all sports today whether professional, collegiate, or recreational, the topic that is being emphasized is concussions. All sports are smarting up on concussion precaution and post concussion safety. An athlete withstands and endures a lot of physical excursion during games. A concussion today can bench or sideline a player for a lengthy amount of time.

Concussions effects can linger for quite some time and most trainers and coaches want to ensure the safety of their players. Most players want and would return too soon and in the past, in turn jeopardize their own safety. A bad concussion can be career ending.

A concussion occurs when the body, generally the head suffers a massive blunt force blow. The severity of the concussion can vary. We are learning the long-term effects are baffling. The field of maintaining player's health and safety is changing

everyday. In the past where a player would have just played now, an organization or school will intervene and make sure a player is healthy and fit for a game. NECC is a school where maintaining the well being of a player is first over a championship.

At the end of the day it's just a game but a severe concussion can impact one's life immensely. Concussions are suffered frequently among all sports regardless of the level of play, although prevention is difficult it can be avoided. Intensity and error can lead a player to suffer a concussion trying to do too much in a game or just out of fluke bad luck.

Preparation and awareness can greatly decrease a player's chance of a concussion but there is no way to entirely knock them out of sports. Athletes understand the level of risk every time stepping on the playing field. In college sports a great deal of responsibility is on the players shoulders to be able to acknowledge when they are ready to return to play.

Chris Nowinski became synonymous with the concussion conversation. He is the president and co-founder of Sports Legacy Institute (SLI). A non-profit organization driven to impact the sports concussion problem we have today. Also he is the co-director of the study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston

University School of Medicine. Serving as well on the National Football leagues Players Association Mackey/White TBI research committee and finally the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of America. He played All-Ivy football at Harvard and broke into the WWE as a hated heel character.

He was named "New comer of the year" by raw magazine. A concussion forced him into early retirement in 2004 after he became the youngest male hardcore champion in the history of WWE. He was diagnosed with post concussion syndrome and embarked on a journey to understand better the post concussion condition. He realized lack of awareness about brain trauma among athletes; coaches and medical professionals cost him his career.

Chris has brought the issue up on a national level. Chris and his team have truly heightened awareness of concussions to all sports arenas. He was profiled in May 2007 by HBO's real sports with Bryant Gumbel and he won the Emmy for sports Journalism. Chris gives a lot of people hope that have suffered similar injuries. He has spoke in leadership programs over a 100 times for schools and sports organizations all around the world.

Update on NECC sports, intramurals

Volleyball looks to future for further success

By JOSH PELTONOVICH
Sports Editor

Unfortunately despite their great efforts last season, NECC will not be having Volleyball matches this year. The team hopes to return next season without missing a beat.

Lack of participants lead to this misfortune, they are looking ahead for the next year with hopes to rebuild.

This fresh month brings a bunch of new intramurals.

Wednesday October 5th there is a picnic on the lawn with free food and the rain date for the event is Friday October 7th. Monday the 10th is Columbus Day the college will be closed. Wednesday from 12-1pm is flag football outside in the courtyard.

Friday the 14th there is a ping-pong tournament.

Monday October 17th from 12-1pm is a darts tourney.

Friday October 21st 12-1pm is quidditch from the "Harry Potter" series.

Tuesday the 23rd of October an 8-ball pool tourney.

Wed 26th from 11am -1pm a Halloween party.

The 28th from 12-1pm mat ball. Monday the 31st dodge ball from 12-1pm.

The winter is quickly approaching come down and enjoy some of the last nice days outside playing some sports or head down to the gym and play some pick up basketball.

Cards are available if you like a quick game of 45's with some friends or bring your own chips and play poker, just not for real money. Pool is three dollars but you can play for the whole time the game center is open for that price.

Previewing the MLB playoffs

By JIMMY PANGBURN
Observer Sports Columnist

This years MLB regular season was a great one and the playoffs look to be even better. The divisions were wrapped up in mid September with the New York Yankees winning the American league East, the Detroit Tigers winning the AL central and the Texas Rangers winning the AL west.

The wild card provided intrigue mainly because it went down to the last day of the season.

The Tampa bay Rays won the wild card on the last day of the season. Erasing a 9 game deficit on September 1st the Red Sox had.

In the ALDS the Rangers will face the Rays and the Yankees will face the Tigers.

The Yankees Tigers Series will feature alot of superstars and runs. The Yankees have Robinson Cano, Curtis Granderson, Nick Swisher, Alex Rodriguez Mark Teixeira and Russell Martin all whom supply power.

The Tigers power bats include Miguel Cabrera, Alex Avila, Victor Martinez, Jhonny Peralta. The X factor in the Series will be Ivan Nova the projected 2nd starter for the Yankees if he pitches well the Yankees should advance to the ALCS.

The biggest x factor for the Tigers is Max Scherzer and Rick Porcello.

The tigers have a better rotation than the Yankees do however the Yankees have a better bullpen than the tigers do.

How this series end will all depend on one man and that is Justin Verlander if he pitches like he did in the regular season than the Tigers should win.

However if the Yankee bats get to Verlander and they steal one of the games he pitches than the Yankees should win the series. In the other ALDS the Rangers will face the Rays. The Rays stormed into the playoffs unexpectedly.

The series will feature two great offenses.

The offense includes hitting machine Michael Young. And tons of sluggers that include Nelson Cruz, Ian Kinsler, Josh Hamilton, Mitch Moreland, Mike Napoli.

The rays don't lack in offense either they have Evan Longoria Matt Joyce, BJ Upton, Ben Zobrist, and Johnny Damon. Both bullpens are also great however the Rangers are slightly better.

The Rangers have some flamethrowers in their pen which include Mike Adams, Koji Uehara Mike Gonzalez and closer Neftali Feliz.

The Rays have a better rotation than the Rangers do with the likes of David Price, James Shields, Jeff Niemann, Jeremy Hellickson. The Rays biggest x factor is Kyle Farnsworth if he can effectively close games then the Rays will be hard to beat.

The Rangers biggest X factor will be Alexei Ogando the Rangers will need Ogando to pitch like he did in the 1st half of the season rather than the second half.

This series will be tough to call if the Rays carry their September performance into October they will be tough to beat but if they die out because the run they had to go on just to get into the playoffs then the Rangers will win the series.

No matter who wins the AL I expect them to win the World Series. In the national league the Brewers will face The Dbacks and the Phillies will face the Cardinals In the

Phillies Cardinals series

The Phillies have the best record in baseball so you would figure they would not have many problems however there starting staff (Halladay Lee and Hamels) are all in the top 10 in most innings pitched.

The question is will all the innings racked up by these 3 pitches effect there performance in the playoffs if it does the Phillies may be in trouble.

There bullpen is questionable which won't help especially if the starters struggle and even there offense struggles at times. The Cardinals have arguably the best player in the game in Albert Pujols they also have a pretty impressive starting pitching staff as well.

However, there Achilles heel is their bullpen. which I why the Phillies should win the series pretty easily. In the other NLDS the Brewers face the Dbacks.

The biggest x factor for the Dbacks will be Chris Young if he hits and gets on base than the Dbacks have a shot if not they will have a difficult time. There starting rotation can be great however it is made up of young players so playoff jitters may take effect.

The Brewers have a great offense, leading the offense is NL MVP candidates Ryan Braun and Prince Fielder. They also great starting staff with Zach Greinke Yovani Gallardo Shaun Marcum and Randy Wolf as projected starters. and a good bullpen which includes Francisco Rodriguez, Latroy Hawkins, Takashi Saito, and closer John Axford.

All these factors will make the Brewers hard to beat which is why I think they move on.

Lawrence Transfer Day

Northern Essex Community College
Lawrence Atrium
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The following is a partial list of the Colleges and Universities that have confirmed attendance:

PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Boston University
Cambridge College, Lawrence
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Northeastern University

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

Fitchburg State University
Salem State University
Springfield College
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

American College of History & Legal Studies
Hesser College
Rivier College
Southern New Hampshire University
University of New Hampshire, Durham

This list is subject to change due to last minute cancellations.

Sponsored by Academic Advising
978- 738-7414 (Lawrence CPAC Room 135)
978-556-3440 (Haverhill Behrakis Student Center, 2nd floor)

Sports

Pats lose 21 point lead to Bills

Bills and the boys go from 21 up to rock bottom loss

BY JASON LOGAN
Correspondent

21-0 lead turned into a loss!

Tom Brady threw a career high of four interceptions.

The Patriots got too comfortable with a lead they built with smart plays and tough defensive stops.

Although the Patriots were without their safety, Patrick Chung and their defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth.

The team still played a well-rounded first half with three touchdowns.

It was during the 2nd quarter where quarterback Tom Brady threw his first interception of the game.

The pass was intended for running back Danny

Woodhead, who tipped the ball into the Bills' defensive player.

After Brady's first interception, the team did not seem to play nearly as well as they could have.

Wide Receiver Wes Welker had a breakout game with 217 receiving yards on six-teen receptions.

Tight End Rob Gronkowski as well as Welker, had two touchdown catches each.

The Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick played well too, with two passing touchdowns as well as two interceptions.

Fitzpatrick and Brady both threw for over 300 yards. Putting the blame on Brady would be jumping the gun a little bit, the blame should be split up between Patriots defense and Brady.

(The Patriots offense.) Some are trying to put the blame on coach Bill Belichick which puzzles me because he can not control the way his play-



MCT Campus Photo

Patriot coach, Bill Belichick leaves the Miami stadium with his head down low.

ers are playing, he can tell them what plays to call and how it is suppose to be run. He can not be at fault for the poor second half of the Patriots.

The Bills gained momentum as soon as the first interception happened.

Patriots had all the momentum built up and one play/mistake can turn the tables.

The Buffalo Bills are 3-0 on the season after yesterday victory.

The Bills previous game against the Raiders ended the same way the game against

the Patriots.

The Raiders had a comfortable lead in the first half and in the second half the Bills came storming back

to steal the win. Buffalo Bills have a great team this year and are shocking everyone with

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TRANSFER COLLEGE DAY 2011

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
** Tech Center - bring your transcript**

American College of History & Legal Studies	Franklin Pierce College
Quinnipiac University	Amherst College
Regis College	Assumption College
Simmons College	Bay State College
Southern NH University	Becker College
Springfield College	Boston University
Suffolk University	Bryant University
Union Institute & University	Cambridge College
Unity College	Curry College
University of NH-Durham	Elms College
University of NH-Manchester	Emerson College
Nichols College	Wentworth Institute of Tech
Northeastern University	Wheelock College
	Keene State College
	Lasell College
	Montserrat College of Art
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Massachusetts State Universities

Fitchburg State University	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Framingham State University	University of Massachusetts at Boston
Mass College of Liberal Arts	University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Salem State University	University of Massachusetts at Lowell
	Worcester State University

Love, Lust and Relationships

Is he into you? Try again.

Centuries ago, women couldn't read men, and they still can't

By S.J.A.
Observer Columnist

It wasn't until he turned back and smiled that I knew that I was in trouble.

For weeks, a'hem, months, I've been trying to convince myself that the somewhat short, dark, and mysterious man I see almost every night is nothing but a mere crush.

I tried to convince myself that I had complete control, that I could still function like a normal human being, that this was just a phase, and that it would eventually pass.

But here's the thing.

He looked back.

Lately I've been completely comfortable waltzing around, smiling, and batting my lashes at

everyone in my path. That's the thing with being 25 and single. It's the age when you become comfortable with yourself, your inner and outer beauty, your wit, smarts, and style.

But "Moons", the man who holds my heart and who only comes out at night, made me second guess myself. Maybe I'm not pretty. Maybe I'm not as charming as I think I am. Maybe he thinks I'm annoying, not intriguing.

But why would he look back?

For weeks I have been doing that chicken dance that us girls do. Witty banter back and forth, going out of my way to be in his way, and doing my best to show that I was available.

I was cute, funny, and interested, and from what I could tell he was interested too.

But here's the other thing.

He's a quiet guy.

Trying to decode a quiet guy is like traveling to a foreign country and not speaking the language.

You can get by for a couple of

days, but eventually you concede and either leave the country, or learn their native tongue. Vacating the country was not an option for me, considering I see him everyday and he was too cute to ignore. So I educated myself on how to speak his language.

Usually an outgoing say-whats-on-my-mind kind of gal, I had to take a different approach with this one. I took on his silent prototype with coy, little smiles and glances that lingered just long enough. But soon I realized, this wasn't an act. This shy guy had a hold on me bad, and my shy ways were real.

He makes me nervous. I'm scared to talk for fear I'll say something stupid.

And if I talk too much he'll realize we don't have that much in common.

So all I have are his look backs.

We pass in the hall, smile, make eye contact, and just before we lose sight of each other "Moons" turns back, and smiles again.

He always does it, without fail. Granted, I do the same, but only because he does.

And, because I'm completely interested. This happens almost every time we have any sort of contact, in the hall, on the stairs, inside, outside.

But why? I don't look back at the mailman, the guy who pumps my gas, the boys in class, or the dude who hooked up my cable, no matter how cute they are, or how bad they flirted.

So he must be interested. Because you wouldn't look back if you weren't, right? Right. Wrong? Perhaps.

These games are exhausting. Both the ones inside my head and the ones that "Moons" may or may not be playing with me. It has gone on long enough.

He has had more than enough time to man-up and either upgrade his look-backs to asking me out or stopping all together, sending me on my way.

Either way I'm taking control of the situation and taking some time off. My head and my heart

need the break.

My mind is tired from being overworked, trying to decode the quiet guy while keeping up my nonchalant attitude around him. I'm turning into a crazy person.

So I'm moving on, if only for now.

My focus is forward and I'm standing my ground. If he wants me he's going to have to say it.

He's going to have to act on all those looks that are more than just looks, because I'm not playing anymore.

My head is out of the clouds. I'm through with all of it.

I'm going to bed and waking up a new woman. A woman who is calm, cool, collected, and in complete control.

Just as I turned out my lights my room filled with a bright beam of light.

I looked back.

It was the moon.

Oh well, it was worth a try.

S.J.A. is a student at NECC. Like you she has experienced the ups and downs of love.

Horoscopes

By the Observer pressmonkeys

ARIES (The Ram)

(March 21-April 20)

The universe is deeply frustrated with your inability to manage your finances. It would be one thing if you missed a car payment now and again, but you've fallen behind on your palm readings, and that is simply unacceptable. Beware Gemini and Victorian furniture.

In Egyptian mythology, the ram symbolized tax reform. Don't let this discourage you about your upcoming audit -- the IRS are mostly an understanding bunch.

Your lucky numbers are engraved on a ring which a short, barefooted adventurer is carrying to a volcano.

Your abstract object is bridge.

TAURUS (The Bull)

(April 21-May 20)

Deep in the outer reaches of space, the stars have aligned into a formation which designates you as the chosen one. Unfortunately, the paperwork is past due, and they've selected a runner-up. Beware Aries and vögons.

In Edwardian mythology, the bull stood for charm and grace. Keep this in mind as you're asked to dance with a variety of queens at your next international royalty meet-and-greet.

Your lucky numbers are in a time capsule buried by a nine year old girl in Burlington.

Your abstract object is greenness.

GEMINI (The Twins)

(May 21-June 21)

Losing your temper will do little to assuage the stars' decision that you shall spill an eerily large quantity of mustard on your favorite shirt this week, immediately before either a job interview or an important date. Beware Scorpio and condiments.

In Norse mythology, the twins carried the responsibility for the survival of their tribe during the harsh cold of winter. Keep this in mind when your roommates dispute the

heating bill.

Your lucky numbers are flattened against the backside of Governor Patrick's office bookshelf.

Your abstract object is alienation.

CANCER (The Crab)

(June 22-July 22)

Oceans rise and fall under your commanding gaze this week, as you conquer the seas themselves. Your ability to schedule around traffic is less impressive. Beware Taurus and newspapers.

In Korean mythology, the crab stole the moon for the goddess Susan in exchange for a single kiss and a summer home. Don't let this happen to you.

Your lucky numbers are popularized by a greatest hit song about a woman named "Jenny."

Your abstract object is tennis.

LEO (The Lion)

(July 23-Aug. 22)

The swooping lights of the Aurora Borealis predict for you a glorious future of fame and excitement. Unfortunately, the northern lights are not a recognized source of astrological wisdom. The stars predict gastric discomfort. Beware Sagittarius and Taco Bell.

In Australian mythology, the lion is the symbol of familial disappointment, which will be fitting when your parents find out who you're dating.

Your lucky numbers are the 16,512th to the 16,522nd digits of Pi.

Your abstract object is democracy.

VIRGO (The Maiden)

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Brightest signs of fortune and wonder fill the forecast of your future. Nothing is beyond your reach -- now is the perfect time to reach out and attempt to grasp what you never thought possible, for reasons of physical disability or questionable moral status. Beware Aquarius and your

parole officer.

In German mythology, the maiden took the fruit of ambivalence from the troll of bad decisions, and sold it to the Hanged Man, who later became successful as a member of the Tarot deck. Meanwhile, she continued to be comfortable and happy seizing opportunity without undue fretting.

Your lucky numbers are written in grease on the wall of your bedroom.

Your abstract object is hope.

LIBRA (The Scales)

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The stars wish to apologize for their recent negligence. They understand that your future is not a joke to you, and that you're a busy human with lots of important commitments and stuff. As an act of repentance, they offer a choice of fortunes: things will either go really badly or really well. Beware Capricorn and mixed messages.

In Texan mythology, the scales were used to determine the depth of a person's soul, as measured by commitment to the right to bear arms. Buy an assault weapon to ensure your passage into the next world. Or someone else's.

Your lucky numbers are in the glove compartment of the BMW in the parking lot.

Your abstract object is awkwardness.

SCORPIO (The Scorpion)

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Charts illuminate the mystical energy surrounding the moment of your birth, and paint a clear path to the virtues of scratch tickets. Buy at least \$15 in tickets this week -- the stars guarantee* a return of at least 150%. Beware Leo and false hope.

In Belgian mythology, the scorpion was the elephant's best friend. They played tic tac toe and Parcheesi.

Do not mock their friendship.

Your lucky numbers are printed on a receipt in the garbage at the nearest convenience store. You'll know which receipt is the right one because it's covered in marmalade.

Your abstract object is eight.

*This guarantee is not guaranteed.

SAGITTARIUS (The Archer/Centaur)

(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Don't be discouraged by the ominous portents in your stars. It's totally possible that the messages of doom and destruction spelled out in your forecast are about something else entirely. Just to be on the safe side, though, locate your nearest friendly bomb shelter. Beware everything.

In Martian mythology, the centaur was ostracized for his terrible body odor. As a measure to avoid a similar fate, the stars recommend Axe™ body spray.

Your lucky numbers are somewhere in Lawrence. Good luck.

Your abstract object is weather.

CAPRICORN (The Sea-Goat)

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Glorious, undying passion overtakes your enemies as they discover you, prone, in a moment of utter vulnerability. Don't let this get you down, however, everything has a bright side. In your case: it'll be quick! Beware.

In Algonquin mythology, the sea-goat was responsible for the fall of man from God's grace. At least, I think that was Algonquin. Might have been Mesopotamian. Or Dutch. And maybe it wasn't the goat.

Your lucky numbers are stuck to a bit of paper on a homeless man's shoe. He sleeps on the corner of Washington street.

Your abstract object is lens flare.

AQUARIUS (The Water

Carrier)

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Fortune smiles upon you as you come upon your oldest enemy, vulnerable and prone. You'll never get an opportunity like this again, so we recommend you take it. But make it quick -- we promised you would. Beware Sagittarius and tricky nemises.

In accounting mythology, the Water Carrier married the Queen of Hearts and bent impotently to her iron will. Don't let this happen to you: protect Alice when the opportunity arises, and we recommend knightining the March Hare.

Your lucky numbers are written in smoke rising up from a camp fire in New Jersey.

Your abstract object is self-esteem.

PISCES (The Two Fish)

(Feb. 20-March 20)

The stars predict for you a future of cup ramen and pirated music. Congratulations! You've been accepted to a 4-year college. Celebrate by calling up all your relatives asking for money. You'll need it. Beware Taurus and the government.

In Canadian mythology, the two fish were deeply engaged in the mystical force of the stars. They swam through the skies, dancing in the puddles of light cast off by distant galaxies. This means almost nothing to you. Don't read too much into Canadian mythology.

Your lucky numbers are buried under a mile of oxidized iron powder in an abandoned mine shaft in Alaska. You will find them if you dig forward for six hundred feet then down. Down until you find them.

Your abstract object is comic books.

If your birthday is this week...

Duck!

The Funnies

Best In Show

by Phil Juliano



Best In Show

by Phil Juliano



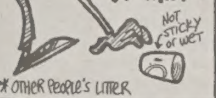
THE K CHRONICLES

IN HONOR OF THE INCREDIBLE CUTENESS OF BEING MAKING THE JUMP FROM DIAPERS TO UNDIES...



I'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOME OF THE TRANSITIONS I MADE ON MY WAY TO ADULTHOOD.

I REMEMBER MAKING THE DECISION TO STOP LITTERING... AND THEN TO START CLEANING UP O.P.L.*



I RECALL THE MOMENT I STOPPED RUNNING FROM AN OVERFLOWING TOILET, LIFTING THE TOP OF THE TANK, & STOPPING THE WATER FROM RISING.

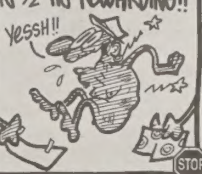
I HARK BACK TO THE TIME I FIRST CHALLENGED ONE OF MY PARENT'S FRIENDS POLITICALLY. I respectfully believe you are full of CRAP. Here's several reasons why...

I RECALL THE FIRST TIME I TURNED DOWN NOOKIE OVER PRINCIPLE!!



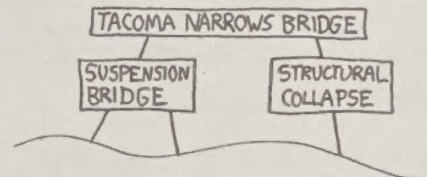
AND THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAID NO TO LOTS OF \$\$\$ FOR ETHICAL REASONS.

I HOPE MY TRANSITION FROM UNDIES 2 DIAPERS IS 1/2 AS REWARDING!!

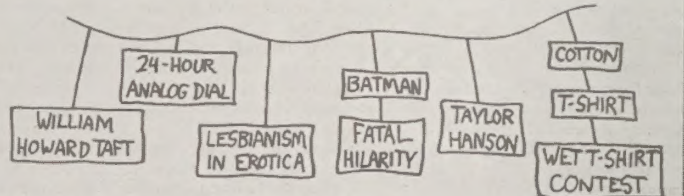


THE PROBLEM WITH WIKIPEDIA

THE PROBLEM WITH WIKIPEDIA:



[THREE HOURS OF FASCINATED CLICKING]



www.xkcd.com

HEY YOU!

Submit your own comics to us at
observer@necc.mass.edu

Java Break

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers to... those of you who have taken advantage of the fresh air and are actually outside enjoying it.

Jeers to... those of you who are stuffing your face with over priced vending machine snacks in the C-building lobby, while pretending it is raining out. Well, guess what it's not!

Jeers to... the projector and computer located in the art gallery for not working properly. You kept insisting on updating.

Cheers to... the guy who actually got it work.

Jeers to ... the person that cut us off this morning when we went into Dunkin Donuts.

Cheers to... the makers of the Apple Cider at Dunkin Donuts. It is like apple pie in a cup. Seriously!

Jeers to... the people that take things at bake sales and don't actually pay for them.

Cheers to... the people that respect the goodies and pay for them.

If there is something out there that you would like to either cheer or jeer, then tell us, by emailing us at observer@necc.mass.edu. Remember everything is anonymous.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH
THIS PICTURE?



Chantal McGovern Photo

An eyesore on the top of another eyesore.
But, hey, if it stops someone from falling on their face and future lawsuits, then who are we to judge?

Complete your Bachelor Degree online!

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Oct. 19 / 10 am - 1 pm
Haverhill Campus

